File No.	200990	Committee Item No.	
		Board Item No.	98

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee:		Date:	
Board of Supervisors Meeting		Date:	September 22, 2020
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Prepared by: Jocelyn Wong Prepared by: Date: September 18, 2020 Date: Date:			
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1	[Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Statutory Exemption Determination - MTA's Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project]
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3	Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings reversing the determination
4	by the Planning Department that the proposed Municipal Transportation Agency's
5	Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project is statutorily exempt from
6	environmental review.
7	
8	WHEREAS, July 16, 2020, the Planning Department issued a statutory exemption
9	determination for the Municipal Transportation Agency's (MTA's) Panhandle Social Distancing
10	and Safety Project (Project) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public
11	Resources Code, Sections 21,000 et seq.), the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of
12	Regulations Title 14, Sections 15,000 et seq.) and Chapter 31 of the City's Administrative
13	Code; and
14	WHEREAS, The Planning Department found that the Project is exempt from CEQA per
15	CEQA, Section 21080(b)(4) and the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15269(c), which exempt
16	projects "specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency;" and
17	WHEREAS, CEQA defines an "emergency" as "a sudden, unexpected occurrence,
18	involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate attention to prevent or mitigate
19	loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services;" and
20	WHEREAS, On February 25, Mayor London Breed issued a Proclamation Declaring
21	the Existence of a Local Emergency, finding that the COVID-19 pandemic posed a threat to
22	the lives, property or welfare of the City and County and its residents; and
23	WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer declared a public
24	health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently enacted Health Orders
25	to protect the public health, including Health Order No. C19-07 (Stay Safer at Home), which

[Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Statutory Exemption Determination - MTA's

1	requires individuals to maintain six feet of social distance from others not in their household;
2	and
3	WHEREAS, As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the MTA proposed
4	the Project, a parking-protected bikeway on Fell Street between Baker Street and Shrader
5	Street, to provide relief to crowding on the multi-use paths within the Panhandle, a portion of
6	Golden Gate Park located on the east side between Oak, Fell, Baker, and Stanyan Streets;
7	and
8	WHEREAS, Before the COVID-19 public health emergency, the multi-use paths in the
9	Panhandle already carried high volumes of bicyclists and pedestrians; and
10	WHEREAS, These paths are up to 12-feet wide; and
11	WHEREAS, Use of the Panhandle multi-use paths has increased as a result of the
12	COVID-19 public health emergency, which has made it difficult for pedestrians and bicyclists
13	to maintain the six feet of social distance required by the city's Public Health Order C19-07;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, Providing a parking protected bikeway on Fell Street adjacent to the
16	Panhandle gives bicycles an alternative route to the Panhandle paths, thereby providing relief
17	to the overcrowding and supporting social distancing between users within the Panhandle;
18	and
19	WHEREAS, As part of the Project, a westbound parking-protected bike lane would be
20	installed on the south side of Fell Street between Baker Street and Shrader Street, and would
21	run curbside with a painted buffer between cyclists and parking; and
22	WHEREAS, The installation of the parking-protected bike lane would include the
23	removal of one travel lane and the removal of approximately 12 parking spaces along Fell
24	Street between Baker and Shrader streets. No loading spaces would be removed; and

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1	WHEREAS, Implementation of the project would require paint and the installation of
2	safe-hit posts. No excavation would be required; and
3	WHEREAS, Following installation, the MTA would monitor and evaluate conditions
4	along Fell Street and make adjustments, if necessary, to address travel circulation for all
5	modes as well as emergency response times; and
6	WHEREAS, The changes implemented as part of the Project are temporary and will
7	expire 120 days after the City's proclamation of the COVID-19 local emergency (dated
8	February 25, 2020) is lifted; and
9	WHEREAS, On July 15, 2020, the MTA Department Operation Center approved the
10	Project, under the authority delegated by the City Traffic Engineer; and
11	WHEREAS, On July 17, 2020, the Statutory Exemption determination was posted in
12	the Planning Department's website, as required by Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, On August 14, 2020, an appeal of the Statutory Exemption determination
15	was filed by Mary Miles, on behalf of the Coalition for Adequate Review (Appellant); and
16	WHEREAS, By memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated August 27, 2020, the
17	Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer determined that the appeal was timely
18	filed; and
19	WHEREAS, On September 22, 2020, this Board held a duly noticed public hearing to
20	consider the appeal of the exemption determination filed by Appellants; and
21	WHEREAS, In reviewing the appeal of the exemption determination, this Board
22	reviewed and considered the exemption determination, the appeal letter, the responses to the
23	appeal documents that the Planning Department prepared, the other written records before
24	the Board of Supervisors and all of the public testimony made in support of and opposed to

the exemption determination appeal; and

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WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors conditionally reversed the exemption determination subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of such determination based on the written record before the Board of Supervisors, as well as all of the testimony at the public hearing in support of and opposed to the appeal; and

WHEREAS, The written record and oral testimony in support of and opposed to the appeal and deliberation of the oral and written testimony at the public hearing before the Board of Supervisors by all parties and the public in support of and opposed to the appeal of the exemption determination is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors File No. 200987, and is incorporated in this motion as though set forth in its entirety; now, therefore, be it

MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to prepare the findings specifying the basis for its decision on the appeal of the exemption determination issued by the Planning Department for the Project.

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Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor inquiries" 5. City Attorney Request. 6. Call File No. from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission **☐** Youth Commission Ethics Commission Building Inspection Commission Planning Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Clerk of the Board Subject: Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Statutory Exemption Determination - MTA's Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project The text is listed: Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings reversing the determination by the Planning Department

that the proposed Municipal Transportation Agency's Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project is statutorily

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only

exempt from environmental review.